

How Japan Is Handling Formosa, Her New Colony; Wonderful Territory on Edge of the Philippines



TUNNEL ON FORMOSA'S TRUNK LINE

ONE OF THE NEW FORMOSA RAILWAY BRIDGES, PUT UP BY THE JAPANESE.

BARON SHIMPEI GOTO,

Ex-Civil Governor of Formosa, now Minister of Communications of Japan.

BY FRANK G. CARPENTER.

Tokio, 1909.

I want to tell you what the Japanese are doing in Formosa. Uncle Sam is much interested in that island, and Secretary Taft recently sent a commission of the War Department to go through it and report to him, with a view to improvements in our policy in managing the Philippines. Japan got Formosa at the close of its war with China, just about five years before the Philippines came to us. The island was then in the throes of rebellion, and it was looked upon as about the poorest piece of property in the Far East. It had practically been offered to France and Great Britain, and refused. Its inhabitants were thought to be only pirates and savage head hunters, mixed with the lowest grade, opium-smoking Chinese, and it was turbulent to an extreme. It was, if anything, in a worse condition than the Philippines when we took hold of them. After the island was ceded to the Japanese they had to fight their way from one end of it to the other to conquer it, and they kept a military establishment there for five or six years.

Formosa in 1909.

At the same time they began to make improvements and to reorganize the country. The island was put under a civil administration within less than two years after its acquisition, and now, at the end of thirteen years, it is a fixed part of the Japanese Empire, paying its own financial expenses and rapidly improving along the lines of modern civilization. In these letters of mine on the awakening of Asia, it is thus fitting that at least one should be written on the awakening of Formosa.

In order to tell you how this nation of savages and semi-barbarians has been quickened into modern life, I called this morning on Baron Shimpei

Goto at his official residence near the Shinbashi Railroad Station here in Tokio. Baron Goto is now one of the Cabinet of the Emperor. He is the Minister of Communications, and as such has charge of the railways, telegraphs, shipping and other transportation problems of Japan. It is now over ten years since he was made the civil governor of Formosa, and it was largely due to him that that island has been so rapidly and efficiently reorganized and rejuvenated. He was for almost ten years in charge of its development, and no one can speak better as to its present situation and its future.

The Province of Taiwan. During our conversation Baron Goto brought out a relief map of the island and laid it on the table before us. This was of paper mache. It was, I judge, about four inches high, ten inches wide and two feet long. It accurately represented all the chief features of the country, including its cities, railways and roads. Baron Goto pointed to the places as he talked, so that it was really like taking a trip through Formosa. Said he:

"We call the island Taiwan. You see it is not far from the Philippines, and we are a close neighbor of yours. The island is about 300 miles long and it has an area a little larger than Denmark. This half, facing the east, is very mountainous. Many of the ranges are steep and some of the peaks are higher than Fuji. It is about equal to Pike's Peak, and there are other peaks of 12,000 feet and more. These mountainous regions are the homes of the savage aborigines. It is here that the people known as the head hunters live. The western part of the island, composing a little more than one-third of it, consists of low

alluvial plains. These are inhabited by the descendants of people who came over from China. They constitute the civilized parts of the island, and contain the great bulk of the population. It is among them that the most of our work is being done. We have to protect these people from the savages, and we have a line of police guarding the mountain slopes from one end of the island to the other. They are aided by wire fences, beyond which the savages are not allowed to go. There are guard-houses every half mile or so, and several thousands of guards are always on duty. They have rifles, and they patrol the line between the guardhouses, challenging all savages who come anywhere near. If they do not stop they are shot."

A Big Electric Railway Scheme. Pointing to the model, Baron Goto spoke of a big electric proposition which may be carried out in the future. Said he:

"You will see that we have built a railroad clear through the western part of the island, running north and south from one end of it to the other. That was completed last year. With its branches it has about 250 miles of track, and it goes right through the most thickly populated part of the country. It is now run by steam; but the water supply is such that I believe we shall be able at some time to move all the cars by electricity. I made a study of that problem while I was civil governor of Formosa, and I find that we can put dams here and there in the mountains and make reservoirs which will give us a constant fall all the year round sufficient to generate electricity for the road, and at the same time not affect the irrigation of the country below."

"Tell me something about the railroads. Your Excellency."

"When we took possession of the island we found a little road from Kelung to Shinghai. It was in bad condition, and the route selected was so inconvenient that we planned out this line running from one end of the island to the other. We began work at both ends and pushed forward night and day in order to complete it at the earliest possible time. In places we employed light railways temporarily, using Chinese coolies to push the cars. Some parts of the road were very difficult to construct. We had to carry the track across valleys on bridges, and to make some very long tunnels, but we kept at it, and the road is now complete. It was our original intention to take ten years to build the road, but it has been done in much less than that."

"What did the road cost?"

"In the neighborhood of fourteen or fifteen million dollars. We shall build branch roads here and there and shall open up the whole of the settled part of the island through railways."

"What other improvements have you made?"

"A great many. We are practically making a new island of Taiwan," said Baron Goto. "And what is more, we are making the island pay its own expenses, and it will in time pay for all its improvements. We are putting roads everywhere. We have introduced post-offices into all the towns. In 1906 there were only forty-five places where postage stamps could be bought. There are now six or seven hundred. About 13,000,000 letters and post-cards and about 5,000,000 other postal packages go through the mails every year. We have money order offices and postal savings banks with tens of thousands of depositors. We have something like 2,000 miles of telegraph wire and about 500,000 messages are sent over them every year. Our telegraph receipts are more than 1,000,000 yen per annum, and they yield a

profit to the government. We have a good telephone system established. There are several hundreds miles of lines, and the telephone calls run up into the millions a year. We are using wireless telegraphy in some districts into which the ordinary lines have not been extended."

"How about your connections with Japan and China?"

"They are very good. The Osaka Shosen Kaisha has three or four steamers a month via Moji. The passage takes about four days. There is a regular service of steamers around the coast of the island and regular connections with Fuchien, Amoy, Swatow and Hongkong. As a result of the good steamship communication and our improvements in the island the commerce with Japan is steadily increasing, and a large proportion of the foreign goods comes from here. The imports of the island now amount to in the neighborhood of 30,000,000 yen, and the exports are considerably more than that. More than one-half of the imports come from Japan and about half of the exports go there."

Sugar, Rice and Tea.

"Is Formosa a rich island?"

"Yes," replied Baron Goto. "It has much excellent soil, and it produces large crops of tea, rice, sugar and hemp. Almost anything that will grow in the Philippine Islands will grow there. Sugar is proving especially valuable. Some time ago the government imported seven American mills to crush the cane, and a number of new manufacturing firms have been established. Sugar has been raised there for hundreds of years, and it is still the chief crop. The yield is now from 20,000 to 40,000 pounds per acre."

"As to rice, we are trying to improve the product in quantity and quality. The people are now raising two crops a year in most parts of the island. We expect to better the tea also and give back to it the high standing which it formerly held in the American market. The chief variety is known as Oolong. It was first sent to America in 1857, when it was worth more than \$1 a pound. The annual exports now amount to about 11,000,000 pounds, of which Oolong constitutes about one-third of the whole. I understand the tea is very popular in America, and that its sale there might be still greatly increased."

The Camphor Monopoly.

"How about the camphor monopoly? I understand that Japan supplies the world with that drug."

"That is true, and it is also true that most of the supply comes from Formosa. Within the past year or so camphor forests have been discovered in China, and there is a prospect of competition from that country. At present we have a monopoly on the camphor trade, and the government has control of the manufacture and sale in order to protect the industry. When we took possession of the island we found the camphor business in a precarious state. No efforts were made to spare the trees, and the crudest methods were employed in the manufacture. Now factories have been established in Formosa and Japan, and the most of the product goes abroad, either direct or through Japanese ports. It used to go by way of Hongkong."

"How much camphor does the world use in a year?"

"About 8,000,000 pounds. Our revenue from it amounts to in the neighborhood of \$2,500,000 a year. We restrict the production according to the demand, and are thus enabled to keep up the prices. The camphor trees of Formosa are said to cover an area of many square miles, and we probably have enough to supply all that the world will need for a century to come."

How Formosa Handles the Opium Evil.

The conversation here turned to the opium question. The Japanese do not allow opium to be used anywhere except in Formosa. None is smoked in Japan proper, and the authorities believe that they have adopted a policy which will eventually wipe out the practice in Formosa. This policy was largely originated by Baron Goto, who is noted as a physician and as a sanitary scientist as well as a statesman. Said he:

"I had much to do with opium patients prior to my going to Formosa, and I knew that it was a physical impossibility to successfully prohibit the opium smoking among those who had been addicted to the habit for years. Indeed, it is almost impossible to stop the use of the drug even when the man himself is anxious to do so. The only way to handle the situation, it seemed to me, was to have a registered list of those addicted to the practice, and to have a certain amount of opium sold through the government to them by licensed officials. It is a crime to sell opium to those who are not so registered, and against the law for any one to import or manufacture it. All this business is a government monopoly, and infractions of the law subject one to a fine not exceeding 5,000 yen, or to imprisonment with hard labor up to five years. The government grants special licenses to habitual smokers, and any one who smokes without a license is liable to be imprisoned for as long as three years or fined up to 3,000 yen. As it is now, the government imports and manufactures all the opium used. The list of smokers is gradually decreasing by deaths, and in time we hope to entirely abolish the evil."

"Do you think that China can abolish its opium evil by its recent prohibitory laws?"

"It is an impossibility. You can have no idea of the extent of which opium is used in some parts of China. When we took possession of Formosa there were eighty-nine native and foreign firms engaged in importing the drug. There were thirty or forty different medicines containing opium which the people bought when the drug ran short and opium was used by all classes."

"At first the officials favored the policy of prohibition, but I objected to that on the grounds that it would be injurious to the people, and would stop the smoking, and that such a prohibition could not be enforced. The result was our present policy."

The Chinese of Formosa.

"Give me some idea of the Chinese of Formosa. What kind of people are they; and how big a proportion of the population?"

"They form the most of the inhabitants. There are something like 3,000,000 of them, and only a few thousand savages. The Chinese own all the cultivated lands. They populate both town and country, and they are the real working part of the island. They are mostly farmers, over 2,000,000 of them being engaged in agriculture. There are about 200,000 merchants and 30,000 fishermen. The laborers number something like 200,000, and those engaged in manufacture about 30,000."

"Have you many Japanese?"

"We have 50,000 or so."

The New Schools.

"What are you doing to educate the people?"

"We are establishing schools and trying to make them all of the Japanese language prevalent throughout the island. We have a central language school at Taipei in order to teach Japanese to the natives and the native languages to the Japanese. This school has a normal branch which is

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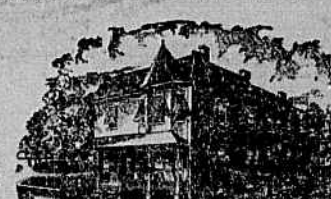
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Japan has lost more men in handling her savages than we have lost with ours at the Philippines. Since 1895 there have been fourteen big fights and several thousand skirmishes. In these 25 Japanese and about 200 friendly Formosans have been killed, while about 2,000,000 has been spent in defending the boundary line. This line runs along the third mountain range, and there are five or six men in each square house. The houses were formerly roofed with thatch, but the savages set them on fire with burning arrows, and they are now covered with mud. The aborigines have firearms, and are excellent shots. They are becoming more and more quiet, and it is believed that they will eventually be civilized."

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Catarrh is a deep-seated blood disease, one which no amount of local treatment will ever reach and permanently cure. The beneficial effects of washes, sprays, inhalations, lotions, etc., are only temporary, and when left off the old condition returns because the blood is infected with catarrhal matter and impurities. This inflames and irritates the mucous membrane and tissues and produces the symptoms of ringing noises in the head and ears, mucus in the throat, headaches, watery eyes, partial deafness, sore throat, general impairment of the health, etc.

To cure Catarrh permanently the blood must be purified, and the system cleansed of all morbid matters, and at the same time strengthened and built up. Nothing equals S. S. S. for this purpose. It attacks the disease at its head, goes down to the very bottom of the trouble in the blood, and makes a permanent and lasting cure. S. S. S. removes every particle of the catarrhal matter from the circulation, making this vital fluid pure, fresh and healthy. Then the inflamed membranes begin to heal, because they are nourished with pure, health-giving blood, the head is cleared, mucus stops dropping back into the throat, every symptom disappears, the constitution is built up and health restored. S. S. S. is the greatest of all blood purifiers and cures Catarrh by driving out the cause from the system. Being made entirely of healthful vegetable ingredients S. S. S. does not contain any habit forming drugs, which really do not cure Catarrh but often ruin the health; nor will S. S. S. injure the most delicate systems. Book on Catarrh, and any medical advice free to all who write.

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Respectfully, N. B. M. L. WESSERMAN.

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When I began taking S. S. S. it was for another disease which the doctor called Tuberculosis of the bone, and since I began the use of your remedy, S. S. S., four of the five vertebrae have healed and I feel as well as I ever in my life.

Oscar Ware.

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LOST HIS VOICE.

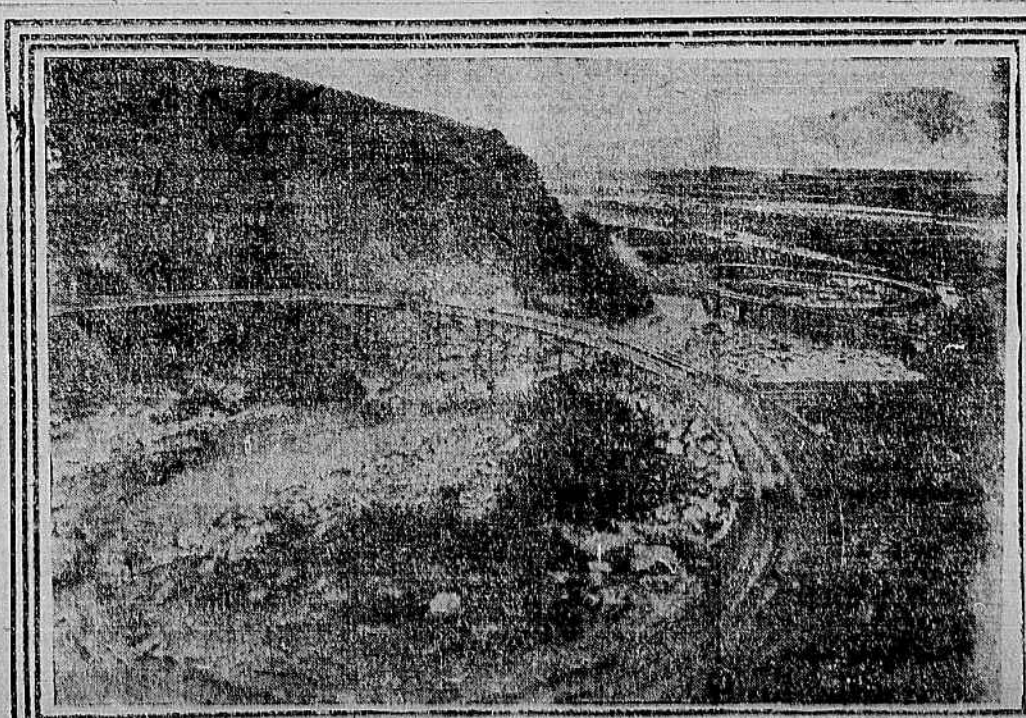
Goldboro, N. C. I suffered severely with Catarrh for a number of years and for eighteen months was almost completely dumb. My voice in consequence of it. I tried various treatments and doctors and was finally given up to die. Then I took S. S. S. according to directions and in due season my voice was entirely cured. My voice was restored and I have enjoyed good health ever since.

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LOCK MCANILLY, U. S. Dist. Attorney, Boston, Texas.



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